

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 OES-06 EB-07 COME-00 NSF-01 NAS-01 ERDA-05
NASA-01 TRSE-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05
CU-02 L-03 ISO-00 DODE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP/ITE:MSLUCY:PAM
APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN
OES:DR. GANLEY (SUBSTANCE)
OES/APT/SA:DR. DARDIS (DRAFT)
USOAS:NSHAFT (DRAFT)NBS:EBRADY
EB/IFD/PAS:EHARRELL (DRAFT)
EB/IFD/BP:WLOCKWOOD (DRAFT)
ARA/LA/DP:AHEYMAN (DRAFT)DCHANG
COMMERCE/DIBA:JDOYLE (DRAFT)
COMMERCE/DIBA:SKATZ (DRAFT)RDREW
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NORMAL DISTRIBUTION PLUS NSF, NAS, NOAA, NBS, ERDA, OSTP,
NASA, COMMERCE, TREASURY

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P 091711Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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INFO USCINCSO PRIORITY
XMT AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, TECH

SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION: OAS TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS

REF: STATE 267864

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT ASKS THAT EMBASSIES (A) EXCHANGE
VIEWS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS ON ORGANIZATION AND OB-
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JECTIVES OF, AND REPRESENTATION AT, JANUARY MEETING
OF OAS GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION,
(B) INVITE THEIR COMMENTS ON US IDEAS ON TECHNOLOGY
COOPERATION PRESENTED IN SANTIAGO LAST JUNE, AND (C)

SEEK INFORMATION ON PROPOSALS LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS MAY PLAN TO MAKE TO TEWG. APPROACHES SHOULD BE IN LOW-KEY. WE WANT TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT U.S. IS ATTEMPTING TO DECIDE UNILATERALLY ON HOW THE TEWG EXERCISE SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED; RATHER, WE ARE PRESENTING OUR SUGGESTIONS IN HOPES WE WILL HEAR LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND: POSTS WILL RECALL THAT AMONG THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SANTIAGO, JUNE 1976), MEMBER STATES CALLED FOR THE CONVENING IN 1977 OF A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REVIEW INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (AG/RES. 232). AMONG THE ELEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION THE OASGA ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING A PROGRAM OF HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION IN THE CREATION, ADAPTATION AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY (AG/RES. 233, BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL). THIS RESOLUTION PROVIDES THE TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING GROUP (TEWG) WITH A VERY BROAD MANDATE IN THIS AREA AND INSTRUCTS IT TO REPORT TO THE MEMBER STATES, AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE IAECOSOC (CEPCIES) AND THE INTER-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (CEPCIECC), SO THAT THESE BODIES CAN SUBMIT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

2. AS NOTED IN THE REFTEL, THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TEWG FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 10 AT OAS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON.

3. U.S. OBJECTIVES: WE DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE A HIGH-PROFILE ROLE IN THE TEWG EXERCISE WHICH COULD ONLY EXAGGERATE LATIN AMERICAN EXPECTATIONS. WE WANT IN THE TEWG EXERCISE AND THE SUBSEQUENT SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO (A) ELICIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS OF THEIR OWN NEEDS, CAPABILITIES, AND PLANS IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT; AND (B) TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF CONCRETE MEASURES SUCH AS THOSE SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. AT THE OASGA IN SANTIAGO LAST JUNE; BUT (C) TO MINIMIZE RHETORICAL EXCHANGES ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS CODES OF CONDUCT, CONCESSIONARY TRANSFER, "REACTIONARY" CONDUCT OF MNC'S, ETC., AND AVOID A REHASH OF THE "NEW DIALOGUE" DEBATES. THUS WE WOULD EMPHASIZE ITEMS A, B, C, AND D IN THE OASGA RESOLUTION 233, RATHER THAN ITEMS E AND F ON THE REGULATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

4. OUR INTENTION IS TO APPROACH THIS FIRST TEWG SESSION IN A LOW-KEY, "STAGE-SETTING" MANNER. WE WANT TO MAKE PLAIN OUR INTEREST IN A SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS AND HOPE THAT THE JANUARY SESSION WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL FIRST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS CONCERNING THE CONTRIBUTION TEWG MIGHT MAKE UNDER THE GENERAL RUBRIC OF COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

5. WE DO NOT INTEND TO PRESENT A PACKAGE OF NEW INITIATIVES TO THE TEWG. THERE IS MUCH ON THE TABLE ALREADY. WE HOPE TEWG WILL, IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS WORK PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE, FOCUS ON EXAMINATION OF THE VARIOUS PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. AND OTHERS, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO LATIN NEEDS.

6. WE WOULD EXPECT THE JANUARY SESSION TO LAST ABOUT THREE OR FOUR DAYS AND TO PROVIDE AN INITIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE ISSUES OF TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION, TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT, ON THE WORK PROGRAM AND GENERAL APPROACH OF THE TEWG, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBGROUPS, ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF PAPERS ON VARIOUS ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SUBGROUPS, ON SCHEDULING OF THOSE MEETINGS, ETC. WE CONSIDER THAT THE INITIAL TEWG SESSION MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY TWO FURTHER MEETINGS OF EACH OF TWO SUBGROUPS. ONE SUBGROUP COULD FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON "GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIC LINKAGES", INTERFACE WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, QUESTIONS OF INFRASTRUCTURE, INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES IN LATIN AMERICA, ADAPTATION AND EVALUATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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EXISTING TECHNOLOGIES, ETC. THE SECOND SUBGROUP MIGHT CONCENTRATE ON "BUSINESS SECTOR ENGAGEMENT"--WHAT MECHANISMS OR POLICIES MIGHT USEFULLY BE DEVELOPED TO ENHANCE THE BUSINESS SECTOR'S ROLE IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA. FOLLOWING THE WORK OF THESE TWO SUBGROUPS, THERE COULD BE A FINAL TEWG SESSION TO REVIEW, AMEND, AND APPROVE THE RESULTS OF TEWG'S EFFORTS AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH THE CEPICIS AND CEPICIECC TO THE OAS SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, EXPECTED IN THE FALL OF 1977.

7. REPRESENTATION: CENTRAL TO A SUCCESSFUL TEWG EXERCISE WILL BE APPROPRIATE, TECHNICALLY COMPETENT GOVERNMENT EXPERTS IN TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. IF ANY REAL DISCUSSION OF PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR HEMISPHERIC AND SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION IS TO TAKE PLACE, WE MUST AVOID HAVING MEMBER STATES REPRESENTED EITHER IN THE TEWG OR THE SUB-GROUPS, IF ANY, ONLY BY THEIR PERMANENT DELEGATIONS TO THE OAS. WE THINK REPRESENTATIVES FROM NATIONAL S&T ENTITIES LIKE CONACYT IN MEXICO, CNPQ IN BRAZIL AND CONICIT IN VENEZUELA

WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE. (REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACADEMIC OR TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.) THE US DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY JOHN GRANGER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. DR. GRANGER WAS THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON S&T MATTERS DURING THE "TLATELOCO DIALOGUE" AND WILL BE KNOWN TO MANY OF HIS LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES IN THIS FIELD. BACKSTOPPING THE U.S. DEL WILL BE A GROUP OF ADVISORS FROM WASHINGTON TECHNICAL AGENCIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND AID.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, IN LOW-KEY FASHION, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE ORGANIZATION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TEWG, DRAWING ON PARAS 4-7 ABOVE. YOU SHOULD INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN A MEANINGFUL EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE ROLE OF THE USG (E.G., PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF MOST U.S. INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY) AND THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATER COOPERATION WITHIN LATIN AMERICA ITSELF.

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9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN DEVELOP CONCERNING HOST GOVERNMENTS' ATTITUDES ON THE TEWG EXERCISE AND THEIR INTENDED APPROACH. ANY EARLY INDICATIONS OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OR POLICIES LIKELY TO BE PUT FORWARD WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL. REACTIONS TO THE U.S. IDEAS FOR REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION OUTLINED AT SANTIAGO (A TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE SERVICE FOR LATIN AMERICA; EXPANDED ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE, FIRM-TO-FIRM COOPERATIVE VENTURES, AN INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER, AND AN OAS CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ON TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION) WOULD AID US IN OUR PREPARATIONS.

10. YOU SHOULD NOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO THE WORK OF THE TEWG, INDICATE THAT THE U.S. DEL WILL BE HEADED BY NSF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GRANGER AND URGE SIMILAR REPRESENTATION ON THEIR PART. WE EXPECT, AND WILL OF COURSE SUPPORT, A LATIN AMERICAN CHAIRMAN FOR THE TEWG. INFORMATION ON INTENDED DELEGATIONS WOULD THEREFORE BE APPRECIATED, AS WELL AS POST ASSESSMENT CONCERNING LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR CHAIRMAN.

11. RESPONSES RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 15 WOULD ASSIST US SUBSTANTIALLY IN PREPARING FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION.

12. FOR CARACAS: IN VIEW OF MEETING WITH MATOS NOVEMBER 24, NO FURTHER APPROACH IS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. WE WILL OF COURSE APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION YOU

MAY BE ABLE TO REPORT, BUT WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION
WHEN AND WHETHER YOU WISH TO FOLLOW UP WITH MATOS.

13. FOR MEXICO CITY AND BRASILIA: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
MET WITH LINDOLFO CARVALHO DE DIAZ, INSTITUTE OF PURE
AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS, BRAZIL (ACTING CHAIRMAN OF
CEPCIECC, AND WHO EXPECTS TO BE ON BRAZILIAN DEL) AND
ENRIQUE MARTIN DEL CAMPO, MEXICAN SCIENCE ATTACHE ON
NOVEMBER 18 TO GO OVER GROUND INDICATED ABOVE. HOWEVER,
THESE CONVERSATIONS, WHILE USEFUL, ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE
FOR APPROACH REQUESTED ABOVE.

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14. FOR PORT OF SPAIN: TRINIDAD'S PERMANENT DEL INFORMS
US THAT SHE HAS REQUESTED ATTENDANCE BY KENNETH JULIAN
OF UWI.

15. FOR SANTIAGO: THE OAS SECRETARIAT TELLS US THAT
CHILE'S DELEGATES TO THE TEWG WILL BE OSCAR AGUERO AND
JOAQUIN CORDUA. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PLANNING MEETINGS, REPORTS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE299448
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/ECP/ITE:MSLUCY:PAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760455-0929
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761293/baaaeqxr.tel
Line Count: 242
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970930
Subject: TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION: OAS TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS
TAGS: TECH, XX, OAS
To: ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS INFO USCINCSO
XMT GEORGETOWN
NASSAU
PARAMARIBO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

